

Chairwoman Representative Horn, Chairwoman Senator Osten and the esteemed members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

I write to you in full support of House Bill 5176, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE POWERS, DUTIES, BENEFITS AND CLASSIFICATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS. While this is only a study bill I believe this is a strong first step toward acknowledging the hard work dispatchers across the state perform and the critical nature of their role in the public safety community. Police, fire, and ambulance personnel rely on and depend on the actions and duties of dispatchers every day - around the clock. The job of a dispatcher is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. Holidays, bad weather, birthdays, special events come and go but the work dispatchers do must go on. I have been a part of this group of dedicated public safety personnel for 23 years and I know first hand the role they play in keeping the public - and our first responders in the field - safe.

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 5176 so that this topic can be further studied.

Thank you for your time and dedication,

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